

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 161558Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6259

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: RUMORED HIGH LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES

1. A POLISH JOURNALIST SOURCE, WHO IS IN A POSITION TO BE PRIVY TO A WIDE SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL NEWS, TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THERE WILL BE A PLENUM DEVOTED TO PERSONNEL CHANGES FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER 22-23 PZPR PARTY CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE MAIN CHANGES WILL INVOLVE PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ REPLACING HENRYK JABLONSKI AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND PARTY SECRETARY SZYDLAK REPLACING JAROSZEWICZ AS PREMIER. PRESSED FOR A RATIONAL E FOR THESE CHANGES BY EMBOFF, THE SOURCE COULD OFFER NONE OTHER THAN THAT SZYDLAK'S STAR WAS SAID TO BE ASCENDING AGAIN AFTER BEING ECLIPSED BY SZLACHCIC'S DURING THE SUMMER.

2. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS RUMOR. AT 64, NEITHER JABLONSKI NOR JAROSZEWSKI CAN BE CONSIDERED OVER THE HILL AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT RUMORS ABOUT EITHER OF THEM SUFFERING FROM BAD PHYSICAL OR POLITICAL HEALTH. ON THE OOTHER HAND, NEITHER IS ASSOCIATED WITH GIEREK'S SILESIA-BASE POLITICAL FACTION  
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AND NEITHER HAS A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL BASE OF HIS OWN. JABLONSKI IS ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING FORMER SOCIALISTS

IN HIGH POLITICAL OFFICE AND JAROSZEWICZ IS ESSENTIALLY A COLORLESS BUT DEPENDABLE PARTY STALWART WHO HAS NO EVER BEEN CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH ANY FACTION. SZYDLAK IS YOUNG (48, DYNAMIC, GOT HIS MAJOR POLITICAL START AS A SECRETARY IN GIERKE'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND HAS A REPUTATION OF BACKING THE RIGHT POLITICAL HORSE AT THE RIGHT TIME. AS HEAD OF THE GIEREK REGIME'S SPECIAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION, HE IS ALSO IN A POSITION TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR MUCH OF THE RELATIVE IMPROVEMENT IN ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE WHICH HAS BEEN ATTENDED BY A VISIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. CONVERSELY, HE ALSO STAND TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE ATTACK SHOULD THE ECONOMY FALTER. POSSIBLE HIS HERETOFORE UNERRING INSTINCT FOR POLITICAL SURVIVAL VIA UPWARD MOBILITY HAS SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT HE SHOULD MOVE ON TO BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES AND LEAVE THE POLITICAL OVERLORDSHIP OF THE ECONOMY TO SOMEONE ELSE NOW THAT SOME ADJUSTMENTS IN RETAIL PRICES SEEM INEVITABLE. HIS LENGTHY AND CLOSE POLITICAL AND PERSONAL TIES TO GIEREK UNDOUBTEDLY SERVE HIS PROFESSIONAL AMBITIONS WELL. MOREOVER, HIS PAST CAREER INDICATED THAT HE IS A FLEXIBLE, PRAGMATIC, AND ENERGETIC ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS CONSISTENTLY AND SLAVISHLY LOYAL TO THE LEADER OF THE MOMENT. POSSIBLE GIEREK SEES SOME DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD DURING WHICH HE WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH SOMEONE PERSONALLY DEVOTED TO HIM, SUCH AS SZYDLAK, AS NOMINAL HEAD OF GOVERNMENT. IN SUM, WHILE THE EMBASSY SEES NO SPECIAL REASON FOR HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES AT THIS TIME AND IS NOT AWARE OF ANY LEADERSHIP DISPUTES WITHIN THE PARTY, IT NEVERTHELESS WOULD NOT BE GREATLY SURPRISED WERE JAROSZEWICZ TO REPLACE JABLONSKI AS CEREMONIAL HEAD OF STATE AND SZYDLAK TO BECOME PREMIER.

DAVIES

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